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(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Kebel et al.

International Application No.: PCT/CH 03/00718

: Group Art Unit: N/A

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: Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: ORTHOPAEDIC RATCHETING FORCEPS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to initiation of the prosecution of the above-identified pending U.S. patent application, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.